

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A communications system comprising means for determining whether a receiving agent is capable of calculating a throughput rate and means for adjusting a packet transmission rate in response thereto.
2. The communications system as described in claim 1, further comprising means for adjusting the throughput rate in a first manner if the receiving agent is capable of calculating a throughput rate.
3. The communications system as described in claim 1, further comprising means for adjusting the throughput rate in a second manner if the receiving agent is not capable of calculating a throughput rate.
4. The communications system as described in claim 2, further comprising means for adjusting the throughput rate in a second manner if the receiving agent is not capable of calculating a throughput rate.
5. The communications system as described in claim 1, wherein the means for determining whether a receiving agent is capable of calculating a throughput rate comprises a processor at the receiving terminal that is capable of transmitting data to the sending terminal.
6. The communications system as described in claim 4, wherein the means for

determining whether a receiving agent is capable of calculating a throughput rate comprises a processor at the receiving terminal that is capable of transmitting data to the sending terminal.

5 7. A method for optimizing the transmission of packets in a packet communication network comprising determining whether a receiving agent is capable of calculating a throughput rate for such packets, and adjusting the throughput rate in response thereto.

10 8. The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising the step of determining if the throughput rate has changed, and if so, updating the throughput rate.

15 9. The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising the step of adjusting a throughput rate by a sending agent if the receiving agent is not capable of calculating the throughput rate.

20 10. The method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising the step of adjusting a throughput rate by a sending agent if the receiving agent is not capable of calculating the throughput rate.